

REMARKS

In the above-mentioned Office Action, all of the pending claims, claims 1-20, were rejected. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-16, and 18 were rejected under Section 102(b) over Seshadari. Claims 1-20 were rejected under Section 102(a) over Shammons. Additionally, claims 4, 5, 16, and 17 were rejected under Section 112, first paragraph, for reciting structure and method that differs with the disclosure set forth in the specification. Objection was further made to informalities contained in claim 5 and to an informality contained on page 9 of the specification. And, the Examiner noted the informality of the drawings of the application.

Responsive to the rejection of the claims, claims 1-20 have been cancelled, and new claims 21-36 are set forth herein. Independent claims 21 and 31, and the dependent claims thereon, are believed to recite structure and method that is not shown in either of the references cited against the claims of the application.

With respect to exemplary claim 21, the recited apparatus includes a modulator in which first and second code matrices are formed. The first and second code matrices are formed of code symbols from which a difference matrix is formed. The code symbols of the matrices are selected such that the difference matrix multiplied together with a hermetian matrix thereof is proportional to an identity matrix for at least a shortest error event. Method claim 31 recites an analogous method.

Neither of the references discloses such structure or method.

The new claims have been drafted in manners also believed to overcome the Section 112 rejection of claims 4-5 and 16-17, now cancelled, and the objections to claim 5, also now

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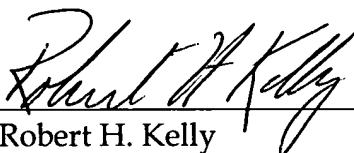
cancelled. And, the amendment to the specification is believed to overcome the objection made thereto. Substitute formal drawings are submitted herewith under separate letter.

In light of the foregoing, independent claims 21 and 31, and the dependent claims dependent thereon, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, examination of the claims and consideration for their allowance is respectfully requested. Such early action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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